

Amendments to the Claims

The listing of the claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claim 1 (currently amended): A homoserine transsuccinylase which, as compared with a homoserine transsuccinylase wild-type enzyme, exhibits a reduced sensitivity toward L-methionine or SAM, with the wild-type enzyme possessing an amino acid sequence which comprises a constituent sequence TyrGlnXaaThrPro, with the Thr of this constituent sequence being between position 285 and 310 of the amino acid sequence and with position 1 being the starting methionine, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein it exhibits a change of at least 2 amino acids as compared with the wild-type enzyme, with this change being in the Thr of the constituent sequence or C-terminally thereof.

Claim 2 (currently amended): A homoserine transsuccinylase as claimed in claim 1, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein it exhibits a change of at least 5 amino acids, preferably of at least 10 amino acids.

Claim 3 (currently amended): A homoserine transsuccinylase as claimed in claim 1 ~~or 2,~~ ~~characterized in that,~~ wherein it exhibits a resistance toward the inhibitors SAM and/or

L-methionine which is increased (increased Ki) at least 2-fold as compared with that of the wild-type enzyme.

Claim 4 (currently amended): A homoserine transsuccinylase as claimed in ~~one of claims 1 to 3, characterized in that claim 1, wherein~~ it contains one of the mutations listed in Table 1.

Claim 5 (currently amended): A metA allele which encodes a homoserine transsuccinylase as claimed in ~~one of claims 1 to 4 claim 1~~.

Claim 6 (currently amended): A plasmid, ~~characterized in that wherein~~ it contains a metA allele as claimed in claim 5 together with a promoter.

Claim 7 (currently amended): A microorganism strain, ~~characterized in that wherein~~ it contains a feedback-resistant metA allele as claimed in claim 5.

Claim 8 (currently amended): A microorganism strain as claimed in claim 7, ~~characterized in that wherein~~ it is a Gram-negative bacterial strain, preferably E. coli.

Claim 9 (currently amended): A method for preparing L-methionine or SAM by culturing a microorganism strain as claimed in claim 7 ~~or 8~~.